

WASHINGTON, ~~REDACTED~~ - THE U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT HAS LEFT BARCELONA, SPAIN, APPARENTLY SAILING EASTWARD IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

THE WARSHIP COULD BE REINFORCING THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER INDEPENDENCE AND FOUR DESTROYERS REPORTED OVER THE WEEKEND TO BE IN THE CRETE AREA.

DEFENSE OFFICIALS SAID THEN THE VESSELS WERE STANDING BY IN CASE THE 90,000 AMERICANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAD TO BE EVACUATED. THEY CAUTIONED AGAINST SPECULATING ON ANY FURTHER ACTIVITY BY THE SHIPS.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN JERRY FRIEDHEIM CONFIRMED THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT HAD LEFT BARCELONA BUT HE REFUSED TO SAY IN WHICH DIRECTION THE VESSEL WAS HEADING AND SAID IT WAS ENGAGED IN "NORMAL AT-SEA OPERATIONS."

FRIEDHEIM SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO INDICATION OF MAJOR RUSSIAN SHIPPING MOVEMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, BUT HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS OPERATIONS BY THE 52 TO 55 SOVIET VESSELS NORMALLY IN THE AREA.

~~REDACTED~~

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ISRAELI ARMS

~~VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (AP)~~ - A BOEING 707 WITH ISRAELI MARKINGS ON ITS TAIL SECTION WAS LOADED WITH MISSILES AND BOMBS AT OCEANA NAVAL AIR STATION TODAY, THE NORFOLK LEDGER-STAR REPORTED.

WHILE THE ARMS -- SPARROW AND SIDEWINDER AIR TO AIR MISSILES -- WERE BEING PUT ABOARD, SAILORS COVERED THE ISRAELI MARKS WITH PAPER AND MASKING TAPE, THEN PAINTED THE COVERING, THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED WITNESSES AS SAYING.

EARLIER TODAY, A C141 AIRCRAFT FROM THE U.S. MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND LANDED AT OCEANA AND TAXIED TO A POINT NEAR THE ISRAELI PLANE. THE U.S. PLANE PULLED ALONGSIDE THE AIRCRAFT AND BEGAN OFF-LOADING BOMBS DIRECTLY INTO IT, THE LEDGER-STAR SAID.

CAPT. ROBERT C. MANDEVILLE, COMMANDING OFFICER AT OCEANA, WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THE LOADING.

A SOURCE AT THE AIR STATION TOLD THE NORFOLK NEWSPAPER THAT ANOTHER BOEING 707 WITH ISRAELI MARKINGS WAS LOADED WITH ARMS LAST SATURDAY.

THE SPARROW AND SIDEWINDER MISSILES ARE USED ABOARD F4 PHANTOM II JETS, ISRAEL'S CHIEF FIGHTER PLANES, WHICH ARE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES.